American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
January 23, 1931–July 14, 1931

Box Number: 2

Folder Number: 3

Sun. A.M.
Jan. 23.

My dearest loved ones;
I want to get this letter started early this week. I see that mail closes on Thursday & so this letter should reach you soon after Feb. 10. as the paper said. No American mail yet — but expect some today or tomorrow the paper said so before I close this I'll probably hear from you. It really has been just ten days but it seems longer this time. Have just come back from the American School where the American & other foreign kiddies have Sunday School. To substitute for a lady. I taught a little class of girls about ten years old. — Enjoyed it so much. Haven't been to S. S for

3) That I wasn't married + had no children + loved Chinese children. While I waited a man came along with a pole over his shoulder from each end a basket was hanging. It seemed to be a kind of traveling kitchen as several people came out with bowls to get the food. It is quite interesting. The Chinese say they eat twice a day + we three - at our breakfast they eat little cakes - or some little cookie-like food bought on the street (some of the poorer only I think buy the street food - am not sure) Then they eat at 10 + 5. One of the commonest questions asked is "Have you eaten yet"? - In stores sometimes in

2) so long time it seems - On the way back had fun talk-ing to an old lady. She had a big basket on her back which was filled with bits of paper + little scraps of all descriptions - She said she'd sell it - She wore the poor old ragged clothes of a beggar but seemed to have a happy friendly face. She asked me if I had any children (I was trying to get a cute little girl to talk to me) + when I explained I was a "Kuniang" "unmarried girl" she seemed quite sympathetic! Said she had four dead + three living. She explained to the sentinel who came along + stopped to look + listen

4] conversation that is asked to many times.
There isn't a great deal of startling news to write of my doings because I've been studying most every evening + going skating from 5:00 to 6:30 each day. Am trying to get caught up well in case I can get permission to go to the country. I want to be able to tell Mr. Pettus that I am up in all the work. He at times isn't exactly reasonable about some requests so I am not at all sure of his reaction.
Yesterday a.m. I wrote characters - can do about 80 with fair accuracy - when we can write 100 we can take one of the exams

5) on character writing. I think it would be so nice to get it off.

Friday Eve. All had a buffet supper in our hostel & had fun afterward with charades. In the course of them & the rest of the evening some of the best jokes were told - this Scotch one especially you'll appreciate - I think it is funny. There are two girls here from Scotland & to hear them tell them in Scotch accent was doubly funny. This one was in a hotel the proprietor saw the boy cleaning the shoes in the corridor & on telling him he ought to go to the cellar received this answer, "I can't go to the cellar because these belong to a

7] foreignism of the South may be given more space now. The newspaper speaks this a.m. of American ships coming to take nationals to Philippines or Hawaii. Surely a war or shot fired now would be most disastrous no matter what small sacrifice of national prestige may be involved by not because there is no cause for war. The Southerners are actuated by radical ideas now but on the other hand they do want their concessions back + who can blame them + nations say we can't make treaties with two sides etc + demand perfection which they do not them selves have before conceding the treaty rights.

6) Scotchman and he is holding on to the string inside of the door."

Saturday P.M. went over to Pei Hai Park to skate. There was a skating carnival at which were very many fancy costumes - mostly Chinese who wore them, they were very interesting too. I had a pretty good skate.

I am wondering what news all there are getting about the present situation here - have said very little as it seems so useless as it takes mail so long - you probably get good accounts tho as I remember news from China gave a very different attitude than we get here. However the present anti-

8] There is much to sympathize & to criticise in Chinese attitude as we look at it. But if nations would give them the rights & not inflame further the already radical ideas. I haven't said much on this before & by the time it reaches you may be very different — Better not quote me, as missionaries aren't politicians.

We just learned tonight that Dr. & Mrs. Goforth are going to have a field in Manchuria. Betty & I've said if we had to leave here we'd go to them as foreign feeling probably wouldn't be so strong there. It is all speculation — Anyway we are perfectly safe & secure in the Lord's will and He knows our needs and will bring

9 from all the turmoil this will.
I can see that if it should
change the emphasis in
modern
missions from educational
back to evangelistic it would
be a good thing and if we
can be free to do mission
work apart from the con-
nection with anti-foreign
feeling over treaties then
great good might come.
Anyway we know He maketh
the wrath of men to praise
Him & the remainder of wrath
will He restrain. We've said
today with great increase
of tenseness of world relations
flu in Europe + 1/8 of Tokyo
down with it - surely
we'd say the time of His
coming can't be far off!
But how blessed to
know that He is over all

11) Then had testimonies + a good service. They were taking an offering for the work of soup kitchens + clothes etc! It seemed just mighty fine to hear a good gospel service. We are having some splendid lectures on "From Old to New in China" by a splendid lecturer. This week he will take up the British approach to China – which will find quite interesting I think. Our Chinese work gets harder but still I do like it so much!

Dearest ones, I'll close now for tonight. How precious you all are to me + how I do praise our Father for His love + constant

10 and will rule in His kingdom with fairness and peace! But I feel so empty-handed yet for Him to return — not yet crowns worthy [to lay] at His feet — tho I do so rejoice in the security and peace in Him for ourselves — but of those who have it not and can't be told or aren't being told and those who go indifferently one willfully rejecting; God have mercy on them and keep us faithful as His witnesses!

Sun. Eve.

The Salvation Army led the union church service. The band was there & was fine. They played a hymn that we sang so much at Moody & my! it sounded good.

12) and abiding presence and love; — for the sweet joy He does give and the satisfaction of life in His service and with Him. May He keep you in perfect peace no matter what the papers give as news or propaganda for we are safe In Him and His will no matter what is happiness for all. "Nity-nite-I feel like saying-as of old and have a good sleep"! I'd love to have a morning wrestle Daddy dear for a kiss! Bless your dear hearts! — Lovingly — Irene.

Mon. Eve.

Precious ones: This has been rather a full + eventful day. at class this a.m.! Dearest

13] told us the awful news that one of our teachers had died on Saturday – He was a Mandar & had taught here ten years – was a splendid teacher. Left a wife and four children. It brought anew to us the fact of the small margin on which many Chinese, even teachers live and teachers and about the highest class too. These teachers get $30.00 a month & he had had a great deal of sickness & of course the finances were low. They said the family had no coal nor food when he died. The school has sent more than a month's pay to them & the students too will help by some money. Of course the biggest expense in the funeral which is a big one here

15] but some do not believe - oh may! the Holy Spirit bring them to that place of acceptance - "Decent" especially. We are so sorry!! It truly is sweet, the teachers met to do something & they are going to give something to the widow month by month! It will mean a real sacrifice to them but is a token of their esteem - There surely was the hush of sorrow over all today.

We went to the fair between noon & classes to get a gift for Mrs. Goforth. - got two lovely red carved lacquer. It was fun to bargain - but as usual I get so tickled I can't talk - They wanted $12 for two - we got them for $3. Mrs G. was so pleased as she said she wasn't born an

14] I don't know how it will be with him — but my private teacher said today they must buy quite a good coffin as they are buried + a masonry mound built up + then when the wife dies they will open the mound + put her beside him. Also told how some use large paper persons, + houses, etc (I've seen them carried before a procession — which are burned to be used for ~~the~~ by the dead in after-life. The paper person to be servant. We can't be sure about him. One ~~teacher~~ told Betty he was a christian ~~church~~ person — but didn't have time to attend much. — We don't know. We do know some of the teachers I know — most of them know —

16] artist & couldn't but love beautiful things — but she had had to just shut her eyes she said — (had such dreams on income) but it hasn't spoiled her happiness — she has treasures which can never be taken by bandits and which some who possess such lovely beautiful treasures here do not have.
They said if Betty + I wanted to come up when they are to be in Manchuria — in case trouble here was so that we couldn't stay — + continue language work (they speak Pekinese) till it is quiet again here — well someday we'll see we might go even for the summer. They are precious friends!
How thankful we are for them

17] no mail yet today - all
are expectant as paper said
today or Sun. so maybe
tomorrow. Had a good skate
tonight + a talk with a
marine - who frankly con-
fesses his sinful life +
having once been a Christian marine.
Some girls here go to the Y.M.C.A.
to dance "as service to the Marines"
He asked me why I didn't come
+ I frankly told him - then
later I asked him whether
the "service" in the fore mentioned
case compensated the weak-
ened testimony + he frankly
said no! I was glad for
it because we've felt the
others girls felt we were unwilling
to help because we didn't
dance with them. I shall
see him tomorrow + only

it is your fault - it is that boats haven't come - for we've never had a mail but there's been a letter from you. Precious mummie how faithful you are & don't try to do more. It is such a big help to get your letters - & no matter how many come a mail isn't complete till yours comes. But don't feel sorry - when I don't get it - the boat is slow it has been 12 days this time but oh such a precious letter. I am sorry mine are long apart but I have written each week. Have you been sending my letters to Warren's I haven't written them much but have a letter to answer & will soon. If people really want the letters in Independent I'm glad for you to give

18 God can use me + that he will come clean. He said how Lord it is to live in the Orient + not lower standards!

Well nity nite loved ones, I'll finish later a big kiss for each ones,

Wed. P.M.

I was going to mail this this a.m. but am so glad I didn't as I can relieve your mind about mail. The mail man was almost besieged when he came at recess! Your wonderful letter written Dec 26 after the Roseburg trip + Christmas came on it. Of course the forwarded and some others making ten in all! I can't answer all as I must mail this soon so it will go tomorrow. Mummie dear, when I mention not getting mail never think

them — but don't let them have them if folks tire of them — you know best — We've had a bit of small pox scare — the disease is bad in Peking so Vickie, a man, servants & all were vaccinated — I was out of curiosity but it just healed over & not a sign of a take — wish I knew about Mrs. Werner's desire for rug as this is good time to buy one. Still know nothing more about the country trip.

Time for Betty's & my prayer meeting so will close & get this in this mail. So glad you liked the Christmas things & they got thru — any duty?

With a heart full of praise to our Father for my precious family & loved ones — & lots of love, Irene.

Chinese Home.
February 24, 1931

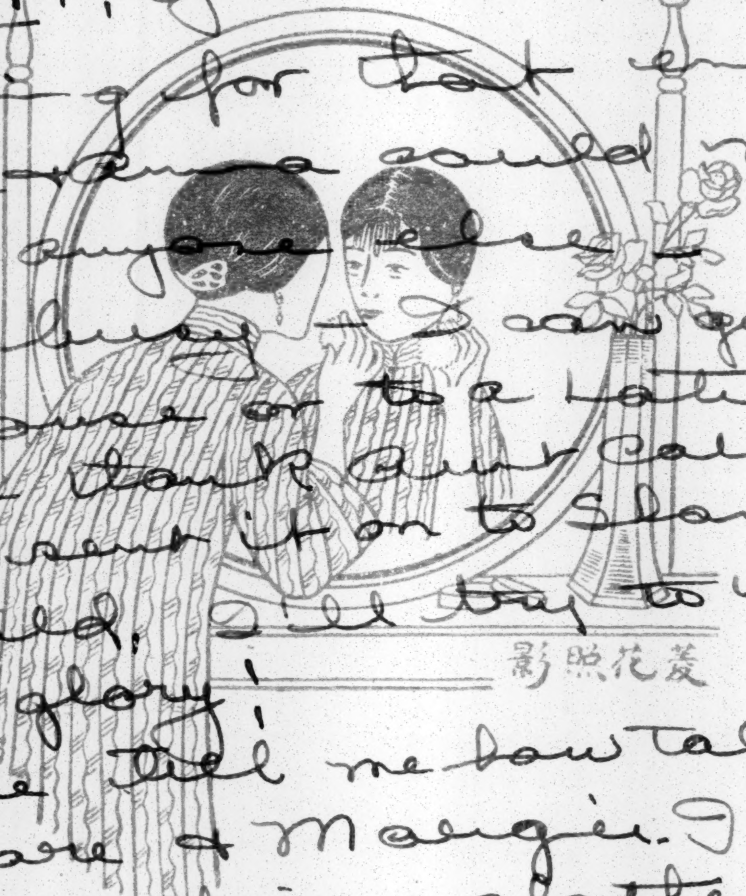
Dearest Mumsie!!
Well, at last that report is done! Just finished. I have sat at the little table on the Kang all day copying it. It hasn't been easy to get out - well, I guess nothing worthwhile is ever done easily - ~~what~~ what a pity this can't even class as that! - but it is done - - - Many interruptions & callers & going out to see a bride brought to her husband's home, & see the ceremony in the courtyard & then a visit with old Mrs. Tan - & now I want to get your letter off. I think if you give this report to Rev. Blue to do that will be all right. He wrote offering to do another & let Mr. Miller have a rest. The work report I haven't gotten out - I'll see may write a short one & then again in May or just before going home. If I haven't time I wait & just do one then - & that Mr. Miller can do.
Have been here as I planned but longer than I planned as

2] I was so tired when I came I
was just sick - got a cold I guess
tho not a real one - anyway stayed
in bed two days - got up a
few days + then had one pretty
wild night with cramps + another
two days in bed. I think the
german method hasn't been at
all successful - not nearly as
much so as before - because
since then I've had more
cramps than before - more like
old times - but with added
head ache. May have to have
that done up again while
home. Anyway I was weary -
Sunday I led part of a service,
+ yesterday - wrote, invited
out to two meals, washed
etc. I'll probably have to
wait till Friday to go - as
there'll be no way of going
before. Miss Fan was to have
gone today but last night
she was laid up with a cold
so we're kept pretty close
to this Kang. Most of the
events of this week are in
the report so I'll not
repeat - I'll answer the
letter I got before I left first.

2 | Miss Tam asks to be remembered to you.
Glad berries look to be good, maybe
a chance to sell. So glad you've
not done all the job of settling
in a house + moving again + too
that you'll not be in a house
alone there. I don't understand
about the brushes - I said at first
they'd get them + that is still the
plan - Don't you get them!
I surely hope you can return what
you borrow from the house to
put into those berries. At that
pace - its a losing game. Try it
this year but if not let it
go unworked rather than use
up the home money for it! But
I know the boys are helping you
+ they know best! I hope you
won't have to borrow from
the boys for anything. You let
me give you first. I've that
Savings Loan 500.00 of which
is yours anyway - I can draw
on it at any time you need some
+ I can draw from that for
New York money. Don't you
think we can make it O.K. I'm
sure we can. Haven't written for
amber yet - I must on my return
in April. Yes, it is sweet of
Martha to get a hat - I've
sent her the string measure -

4) I have made no plans at all definite about the time after I get home nor for speaking trips. That if the Board assigns is too early now + often it doesn't send out 1st term folks to speak, but if so that will be later. As to when we'd go to N.Y. I don't know when school opens. Maybe you do. How much visiting we'd do - I don't know. I had thought Christmas for Warrens + that is what she did say but in this letter said she'd just realized I'd be in N.Y. not Chicago + probably I'd not like to come so far away + anyway Warren goes to N.Y. just after Christmas so she supposed I'd not come. We'll see later just what that all means! - maybe stop there en route to N.Y. + also christmas. I've one thing I want to do - we've no Christian hymns in Chinese on records + if the M.B.I. Trio would learn some + make records I'd attempt teaching them the Chinese sounds. We need such muchly. That would take some time in Chicago - That too I must write about

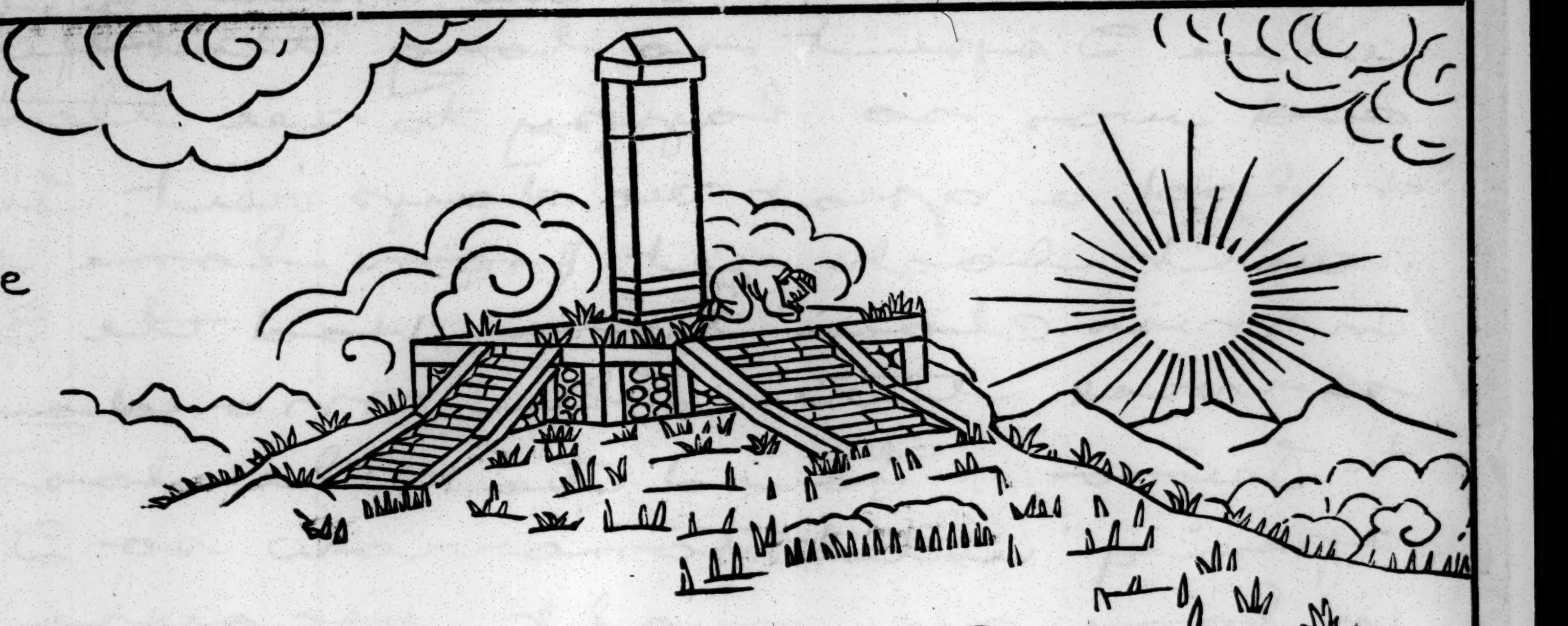
5] Any plans you make for ~~the~~ time after arrival are all right with me - only I want to be with <u>all of you</u> all the time a rather difficult order to fill I realize. I told you the change to July 1 from Shanghai on Pres. Lincoln reaching Seattle July 14. You do all of that planning for that end - maybe Harry + Emma could meet me if not anyone else - + if they're busy - I can go up to their house or to a hotel - Please thank Aunt Callie for me - I sent it on to Shanghai to be sold; I'll try to use it for His glory!



Please tell me how tall the twins are + Maugie. I may get some Chinese clothes to bring home + can get sizes that they can wear as well as others + maybe teach them to sing Chinese etc for speeches! Have you any ideas about what twins would like from China - or any of you. Ray? - put in requests. I find it

[6]. hard to find things for boys!.
Old Mrs. Fan is quite spry -
comes here forty-eleven times
a day - & more when I was
sick - We hear the click
on the rocks of her cane.
She & others all say to please
remember them to all the family.
Please tell Rev Blum - I gotten
his Chinese coins - I'd love to
wait till I go home to send
them; Two people today
unearthed some - They're not
in use here now the cash.
It's dark - my legs are
asleep from sitting & my
paper done - I am called
so will close now with
lots of love. Write again
from Lima, Be there a
month.
How wonderful it will be to
see you all !! I can hardly
Wait when I think of it -
but do pray for strength
& power for these 3 months -
for language etc. April 4th
for 3 wks we're to be at an
especially hard place named
Apu-mi !! To study. Love, Irene.

Altar of Sacrifice on Tai Shan



2 Tsi Yang Road
March 3, 1931

Dearest Mumsie! Just a few minutes to dash a hurried letter off to you. I expect you've had the ones I wrote while in the country. Well, I got off the second report letter much to my joy, its weariness of the flesh but after a good sleep I doubly rejoiced that it was over. I am enclosing it in a letter to Bessie to send to you - I think send it to Mr. Miller & impose on him again. Too, you might tell him I'll go thru. Victoria to Vancouver on the Pres. Lincoln leaving Shanghai July 1. I think the president boats touch his city - you look it up if you can - if not don't tell him now but I know I went there on the way east to get the train & again on our way out to the same place & I think it is his place. Well, I hope to see him perhaps need not say so but I'd like to take a gift to him & the stenographer as I go thru.

I went from Huo lin chuang to Pei Ling where I spent so long that first winter and was so happy to see them again & had a great two days visit. The cook wasn't back yet from home so I stayed in Miss Clark's home. Had the Sun. P.M. service there. Then Monday A.M. came to Leng & found that the class wasn't opening until tomorrow so I came on in home over night because of not having heard at all of the school situation & had some things to see to. Found your two letters waiting. Goes this P.M. at 3 so haven't much time - only for a note in answer.

Bless Bud's heart! It is nice of him to be planning to meet me - He suggests that I plan to arrive over a week end. Well, I just looked up July 14 + it is Tues. I can't control that from. After much corresponding to get the date settled for all of us - + then to have that all done again by co's change of schedule I have just rec'd final word from all + from Board that cabin #17 Deck B July 1. is settled + that is the only possible boat. If I'd wait maybe 12 days there'd be one but even so it might not get there on a Sun. So I'll just have to wait a couple days to see him. I don't want him to risk his job for a trifle that, after all it is a small

2) matter & just a
bit of sentiment of mine
anyway to like being met so please
don't worry. I'll answer, Chinese,
"my heart accepts the invitation as
if it were a reality & with ever greater
pleasure"! Yes, you write the Co. near the
time for landing date. Glad if the letter
was useable & enjoyed! If I didn't feel
it may helps a bit I surely would not
have ~~spend~~ the effort or ask you to.
Good for Eula - keep them from sales etc!!
That's fine! It must have looks good to
see 40 new all line in to S.S. So sorry that
Bernyce is not well! May the operation
be successful is my prayer! Miss Chow
has a nephew just about the twins age
& it made me so lonely for them to see
him. - also very much the same appearance
So glad you're not alone & Miss W. is nice to
you! Honey your birthday just went by
unremembered it must seem - I remembered
by myself but with no token off to you.
I'll bring it!! but you understand
the difficulty honey. Forgive me. That is
good that the principle of the Seattle stock

4) is not lost; Yes dear I hope too it will soon pay. Tell aunt Callie there is a group of christians in the country who have just had a wonderful revival started from among themselves & they want to build room for a church. They meet around at various places but all are too small (quite poor). A man gave a piece of land & they're getting money together for a church. Her file sold for $24. Mex so I'll give it to that church. Thank her muchly!

Poor aunt Glennie! She surely is getting her share of moulding & trails for patience & faith — surely she ought to get the crown of life, — if she is patient thru it all & I'm sure she is! It will be so nice to see Belle & all. Sorry about Dr. Cowdin's —

I go to prepare the last things — Cook's here to account — & he reports that the group of believers (20) that came from our trip to his home (then floating on the sea — that time) — are true & going so & just eager for us to come again. 3 girls would not this N. Y. burn paper to idols & one girl's mother wanted to burn paper to an idol for her headache. She said — ache till I die I won't burn paper to the idol — Now her mother & father too want to believe — It is worth it, eh?

Much love to all

Irene

Tsimo City, Shantung
March 21, 1931

Dearest Mumsie!

Late - Late - my letter is again
I think those words "left undone
the things you ought to have
done" truly apply to me. I
am sorry - but can't say
that it came from wilful
neglect. It is just my
busy, busy life - anyway
you know + understand.
This is Saturday the first one
for several weeks that I have
not studied with the teacher
the same as on other days,
But have had my Bible
class + the one in hymn singing
just the same. Spent some
time this a.m. getting a
georgette bride's veil
prepared for her. Had to
wash it + dye it a bit
deeper pink - for modern
brides in China wear a
veil - but not white; that
is a funeral color here - it
must be red or bordering
on it - a deep pink. This one
is borrowed for the use

of my mind —
Well, things do change. It seems now that I shall have to go to Miss Fan's + let Miss Chow + Wang finish up here alone — not alone for there are others to help them. This week Miss Hua has been quite ill out in the country + has to go home + rest for a month so that leaves Miss Fan all alone. I'm so sorry about Miss Hua's illness. She was ill last fall but this winter she'd gotten thru the cold weather so well I was hoping she'd be able still to keep that record. Of course, I'm glad to go to help but this class has come along so well + the whole thing is being blessed so beautifully with His presence. I am especially happy to have a Bible class of fairly high qualification — I mean they know quite a bit of Bible + can understand spiritual things — They've just been a joy to me. + how they

3] have grown. In singing too they have done well. We've had a special every Sunday + they have 'shown off' well. Of course this doesn't mean anthems - not even four parts but just soprano but anyway that's something.

You should see the gym class. At first they were some of them so timid + self-conscious + didn't take it at all seriously but these last few days they surely have come up in team + snap and done well. Rev. Mr. Pu the minister wants a picture of them in action. It has all been such a joy, To hear, most of all is this precious, the younger girls say - 'Oh' they used to pray one or two sentences - or maybe not at all - but that they'd found the real joy of it! I was thinking how I want to see it to the end - but then I thought of Philip busy in Samaria + caught away in midst to the Ethiopian eunuch - not that my feeble bit can

4) compare with that — but in its small way it's a like situation. Well, if the Master wants me to help Miss Farr & will just glorify His name thru it — That's all I ask!

Mr. Coonradt came out Thurs. for a meeting & brought me two good letters from home. I'll answer them to be sure I get them done before I get away from a post office.

Mother I'm so humiliated not to have gotten something to you for your birthday — I seem to be fated to just not get things I want to do done. But I remembered — here — & you know mumsie precious I wish you just ever so many happy returns of that day — & send just all my love to my sweet Mumsie! Maybe next year I'll be able to show you that I have not forgotten! Forgive me?

I think of father's remarks — just one new pest after another — Man surely pays

5) still for Adam's sin + the
curse of pests — as man's intelli-
gence enables him — to control
one — another comes. So your
berries all all up — sprayed — +
ready to bear. It seems early
but I guess not for there.
Mother it seems to me that
you must not try to meet
me — That it be just at
picking time — it just dawned
on me — + you other years have
not been able to leave. So you
must not this time. It is so
necessary that you get what
you can out of them. I won't
mind — really — as much as you
know it mean to me — I'll come
right on + it won't be worth
the loss to you lovey lamb.
I keep wondering how that
boat can do it in 2 weeks (July 14)
from Shanghai + think he
maybe told me wrong. As you
say you write Co. for P-res.
Lincoln leaves S. July 1.
perhaps Oregonian would
have the Dollar Steamship
schedules in it. So mumsie,
you do what you think
best + I'll not mind at

6. at all! You didn't mention the trade so I guess it is off! No; do not worry over the Wrinkles I've no time to send them to them & two of them come home this summer - if they have not already they can get them-themselves. Mummie, don't worry about the cold & all. You see I'm used to fireless houses - my clothes are warm. Just be glad I've got warm clothes & it is getting warmer! It's nice you & Miss Waterbury are so congenial. That is sweet of her to fix things for you to eat etc.

So bankers are still getting it hard - sorry - hope a middle path will be reached soon. So glad for your happy birthday!! that the rest are in a position to get letters there on time etc. We celebrated World's Day of prayer here too! I am sure Eula is loved by all & that the Master is richly blessing you all.

Have had a few nice evenings out in the homes of the foreigners here. The American Lutheran people have work

7] a couple of schools). Miss Strunk & Miss Sullivan, a very sweet girl from the South who has just been out about two years in her language study - just beginning - I see myself over again. Well, I'm glad I'm as far as I am up the hill. Then there are Mrs. Matzat German members of that mission. Heroes aren't all in wars. That little woman is so brave. Last fall her husband hung himself. It was from insanity resulting from shell shock in the war. Dr. W. said he should have died then by all reason, but see he was spared ten years to work in China. At the last they were very worried about him, - but didn't think it so serious. Well she's so brave, four boys & one who seems to have had something like T.B. of knee for two years. She's going to keep on with her mission work. I spent a most helpful & inspiring evening in her home & came away feeling well, bravery isn't always lauded --- but she surely is great.

8) Then too such a joy these weeks have been to come to know these wonderful Korean missionaries. It is in their building & with them that the class is being held. Such fine fine pastors they are. One Rev. Pu, tall fine-cut features - has 2 girls & 1 little boy - girls are so attractive and pretty & such a sweet family life they have. The other is Rev. Li — a big man of square build who is such a man of prayer, up every 4 A.M. before light - & his messages just sink in ones heart.

These days have been such queer ones - winds all day & such dust blowing. From my window (I'm just palacial in the upstairs of Rev. Pu's home) I can see over the wall to the vegetable plots - at the side of which a two-pulley well with stone pools from which the water flows to irrigate the fast-greening plots.

Sunday.

Today there was a most interesting church service. The C.E. of the Girls school & Boys School, made up mostly of Pres. students who attend the Lutheran school, had a join church

? service. It was led by the Pres. of girls society + with special music by them. The Pres. of boys C.E. who is the student that I'm helping preached + such a good message. He is worth helping I am sure. Took the sins of (Israelites) world at time of Noah - eating - drinking etc applied to today + conditions young people have to meet.

This is my first close contact with students + it has been very interesting. They have been coming over a lot - Miss Fan's sister too who teaches in a little school was here again today. I enjoy her lots.

My short cotton padded garment was so soiled + faded she ripped it up + dyed it for me - so it's like new. Found a sewing woman to sew it up again so I'll be fixed for a while. My Chinese clothes too are needing repair as my foreign clothes - but I

10] hope to get along as best I can with what I have till Spring. If I get too 'tacky' looking tho the girls spend their money to get me something so I don't have get too worse! It is sweet of them to care tho. If they didn't care I'd be sorry.

Well, these surely have been happy years with sweet associates + happy fellowship. The time surely is flying now. The much ahead can only be done by his 'sufficiency'. I just praise him he will help. Miss Hess's illness it is harder so I'll have to bear more of the work + have less time for study. Please pray that God will soon + completely restore her to health. She's such a precious + powerful worker. We need her!

Time for evening meeting I must go - Much love to all + prayers for you -
Irene

Tsingtao —
March 31, 1937

Dearest Mumsie dear!

Just a note —

I'm mailing under separate cover copies of Chiang Kai-Shek's Easter witness to you. In this letter is a poorly-typed sheet of the details of Chiang's capture in Sian. I wrote this to you in the last letter. I wrote it to Bethel - Mrs. Bonney & then typed four sheets of it. I'd decided this way — See these printed copies just became available after I'd told them I'd enclose a copy (which I expected to have to copy but now there are more). Had I known earlier I'd just have mailed all to you. But what I've done is:

Written sheet + letter	1. To Mrs. Putney Corr. for S.W.O.P. + separate package of printed sheets enuf for Presbyterial delegates one each (I hope so at least)
Typed "	2. To Teaneck + 4 sheets of printed one
" "	3. To Bernyce + separate pack - which I hope will be enuf for Grande Ronde Presbyterial
" "	4. To You + sheets & bundle
Handwritten letter (same as typed	5. To Bethel — asked them to give printed sheets to Woodburn & Gervais & Aurora, + pass on their letter of details.

Typed sheet to Miss Helena Saxton (my new correspondent
1742 N.E. 44th Ave. hereafter - not
Portland, Ore. Mrs. Burkhart

& bundle of reports -
asked her to get a good typed copy for
Board & sent a printed sheet to
them.

Now you know what I've done
& you do as want. I suggest you
send a copy of the typed details to
Roseburg church & S.S. & a printed copy
& then send out printed copies as you like.
Miss Annie Thurman would like one -

P.M. Busy three meetings - tomorrow
2 Board Members here a day — fix a display
& then get off to country for mission
meeting

Write more late -

Lots of love to all

Irene

Peking: Sat. Apr. 2 -

Yenching School of Chinese Studies

Dearest Eula + Ray + Babes:

My that was a good letter from all of you I just enjoyed every word of it! To have such a fine visit with the boys + hear all about their toys and engines was great! Winfield - you wondered what I said when I got the letter - I just thanked God in a little prayer that He had sent you and Richard to us! Richard! you are sleeping now! I hope not kicking nor Winfield dreaming of engines and trains! Some day ask your Daddy to take a picture of you! If you were a little Chinese boy you might be wearing a little pig tail down your back - yes - we still see them - or maybe have your head shaved often all over! - like you did last spring do you remember! That surely was funny about the Christmas presents - Ray I guess it is a "chip off the old block"! They're beginning early!

Am glad you have such a fine church and all! May you be richly used to His glory!! Glad to Roseburg is such a pretty place! If Woodburn didn't need the folks so I have to see them go down with you - for Mother wrote how she did enjoy it!! but the Lord will lead in His time! You asked for a letter to the S.S. the enclosed New Year Customs + material perhaps will interest them. It has been delayed by several things but at last I hope to

get it off in the morning's mail!
We are still in the Chinese house + today the rest of all the junk is coming - all moved here - If in case we need to leave it will be safer here than in an empty foreign place + then Mrs. Chen could have it! You're of course interested in each day's news - I wonder how it get there - all wrong or straight. I can imagine the headlines + excitement of last week's affair! I do hope U.S. will act to right the past wrongs on China. Promised position and rights if she'd fight in World War, hoping then to get Shantung back + equal treaties - here at Peace conference on to have Japan confirmed in her place + no change in treaties - Dragged in by back door of Disarmament Conference "like a bad boy whose dirty ears must be washed" - + then get no redress only promises of commissions to study her conditions + nothing ever done! Then when a report is given for nations to demand - what not one of them has almost perfection - that is what caused the anti-foreign feeling + who can wonder at it!! As one writer puts it - Russia was only one who in least sympathized with the aspirations of China - is it any wonder they've taken them as friends - It may be a long old struggle but I believe the powers will have to see it - may be too late,
As to missions - in my limited experience at present it looks as if institutional work is going overboard. Even that would not be such a calamity - maybe - if even at the cost of sacrifice of some

sound schools it means cutting off the sources of destructive teaching under the name of Christianity! Too, if missions has placed more emphasis on educational than evangelistic work - and reaching masses not the individual - then this may shift the center back again! Maybe all foreigners will have to leave - It might be possible that that might be the very best thing for the Chinese church - make them shoulder the burden + it would divorce Christ from all the trappings of treaties and unfair western treatment of cigarettes, + other westernisms that some find so difficult to separate in their thinking. It would leave China with full Bible + literature to apply it for themselves apart from the western-stigma. The work can't fail - the Word is its own power! Personally - should it be best to leave - I feel that it wouldn't be for long until we could return in evangelistic work - not necessarily as foreign representatives but just to work along side the Chinese. The big problem confronting each individual missy. now who has left the interior - perhaps a work of a life time - is to quietly + trustingly commit it to God + be so utterly surrendered in the Master's hand that they can even go home as in failure without doubting nor asking why - but sure that "the work in the Lord" is not in vain I Cor 15:58. That He makes the wrath of men to praise Him

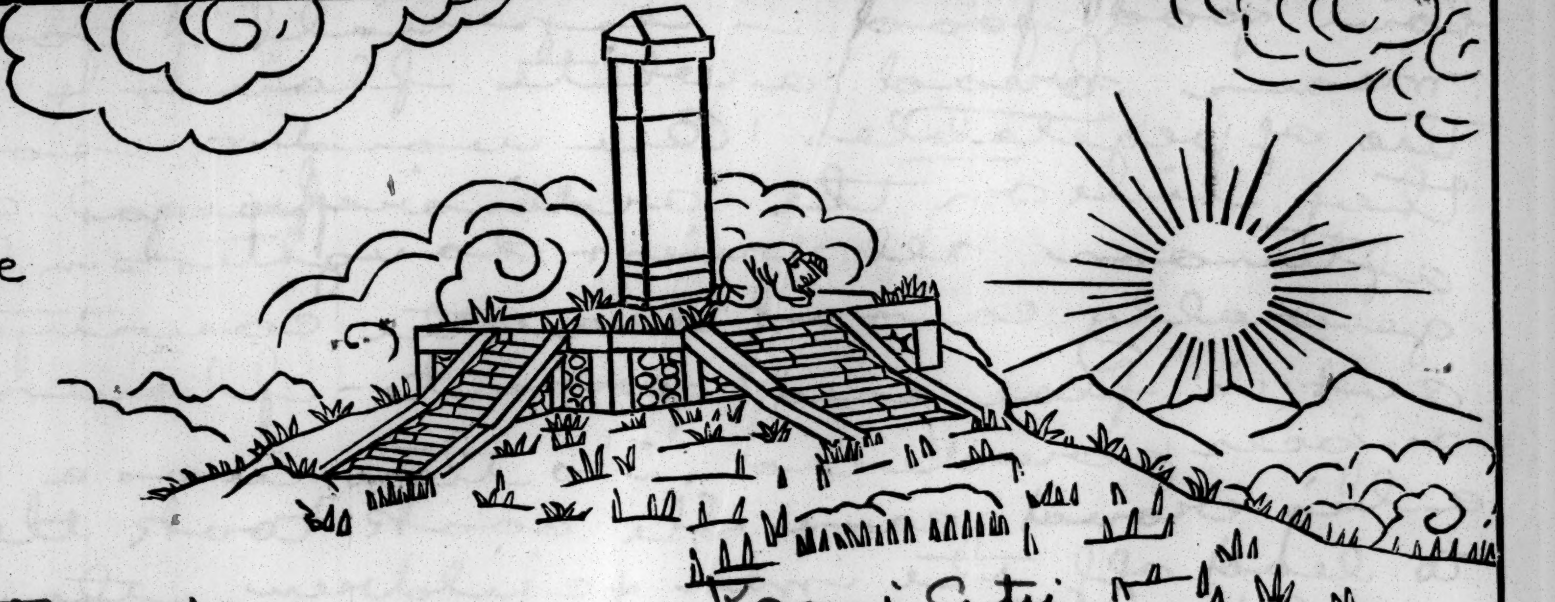
and out of it all will bring blessing.
It will hurt & hurt badly but we are offered the fellowship of His sufferings! It is easy to get so wrapped up in a work or a school that we get proud of the work & after all when leaving comes it is grief not over God's cause but hurt pride that our plans have been thwarted!

So far all is quiet in Peking - we may have to leave later but so far all is well. Some of school have already gotten passage engaged for Japan with possibility of canceling it - So far I've not but will try to be sane and obey - Betty isn't studying anyway so she may go to Korea soon - if so she can take my books - my only valuables - & if not will just leave them here at the Chinese home - After all we get burdened with a lot of things which are necessary but we can live without them! I am wishing every time I move that I had less - the bandits may solve that for me however ha!!

Had such a nice letter from Mrs. Bodie. It was sweet of her to write - when I'll get it answered I haven't any idea - as I've about fifty waiting now. But I surely do appreciate her prayers & her sweet thoughts of me. You tell her so if I don't get a letter off soon she'll understand!

The things have come from school I must get busy now - Take good care of yourselves - all of you - lots & lots of love to all! You can never know how much you dear ones mean to me!! I always know I can just count on you all!! & the love is so precious. Eula Mrs. B. surely spoke highly of you! as a teacher - & of all!
Love' Irene

Altar of Sacrifice
on
Tai Shan



Kaomi City
Sunday - April 12, 1931

Dearest Mother mine!
Time for another letter - Past time in fact but I can
manage a note today I think. At least now I have
a little time. squatted on a sunny doorstep writing
on 'Moody Monthly' for a table. not that I do not
have a real table - for here I do have. We're very
comfy + have two tables in fact - but it still is
a bit chilly so I'll sun a bit - add another layer
to my tan + freckles. By time I go in to get off home
I'll have an Atlantic City 'tan' beat several shades.
Well, at Ta-lan we passed Easter Sunday. Had
quite a festive Easter - of course not to be
compared with big places - but we celebrated
No flower in bloom then so we made a bit
pot of paper peonies - really very pretty +
several colored large fancy paper "balls" to decorate
the church besides a red paper cross + red
scrolls on the front wall. We had on
Friday had a "white" cross + white scrolls. Of
course it is was thoroughly a Chinese idea.
as white is for mourning + red for happiness
I thought of our white crosses for Easter
Sunday at home, + the white lilies - But the
same wonderful meaning is expressed whether the
cross be white or red. It was a big
service. From all of the little groups
several li away the Christians came so
it was a nice celebration. On Monday was
the annual spring festival - for worshiping

ancestral graves etc + a holiday. At noon all have good food – especially good which means bread of white flour + a dish or two of vegetables! One wonders sometimes how they live on their ordinary frugal diet. In the afternoon all wives + daughters in law: who generally cannot leave the courtyard came out in flowered garments – flowers in the hair + faces powdered. So there was a high wind + a big crowd came. The cook took the victrola to lead off the men + children then the women could all get in the room used for a church + little school. They all listened for a long time as Miss Fan spoke to them. This letter with this much has been written piece – meal – wrote a bit then went to church + after it had a lot of various things – put drops in eyes – write a letter [illegible] one off to the hospital etc – See off those from away who came to church.
Now, having had late dinner. Want to rest a bit + prepare for tonight. It's my turn for service. To go back to our coming – We came Tuesday on wheelbarrows three girls from up there came with us to study here. We were so royally received. The girl who is evangelist here – got hot water + we got the thick layer of dust off – then a fat dinner of meat dumplings. They – the new minister, elder, + other workers – met + decided this week in daytime we'd go on to the various villages + visit Christians as well as those in the city. We've had meetings at night Miss Fan teacher + I had led – to A.M. prayer meeting they have lead. After we return from the wedding we'll have a week's Bible class – A.M + P.M. + class in singing besides the night meetings – That with my study is quite enuf to keep us busy – So this week we've gone to the various villages near – The country is lovely now. The wheat is about 4 inches high + willow trees just being

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The Alumni Association of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

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REPRESENTING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 15, 1931.

Dear Friend:

The Alumni Association has just passed another "milestone." Like other years, it has been filled with blessings and testings but how comforting it is to realize that even these testings are blessings in disguise for we know "that all things work together for good."

During the past year, sixteen Auxiliary Associations have held thirty meetings with an attendance of eight hundred, for fellowship, prayer and service.

The Alumni News has been published each quarter and mailed to each of the members of the Association.

We have been greatly encouraged with the words of appreciation from different individuals as to the helpfulness of the News and the splendid meetings of the Auxiliaries.

As we enter upon another year, with its opportunities, may I express the hope that it shall be, in your own life and work, the very best?

MAY I REMIND YOU THAT YOUR 1931 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE? MAY WE HAVE A PROMPT RESPONSE?

Cordially yours,

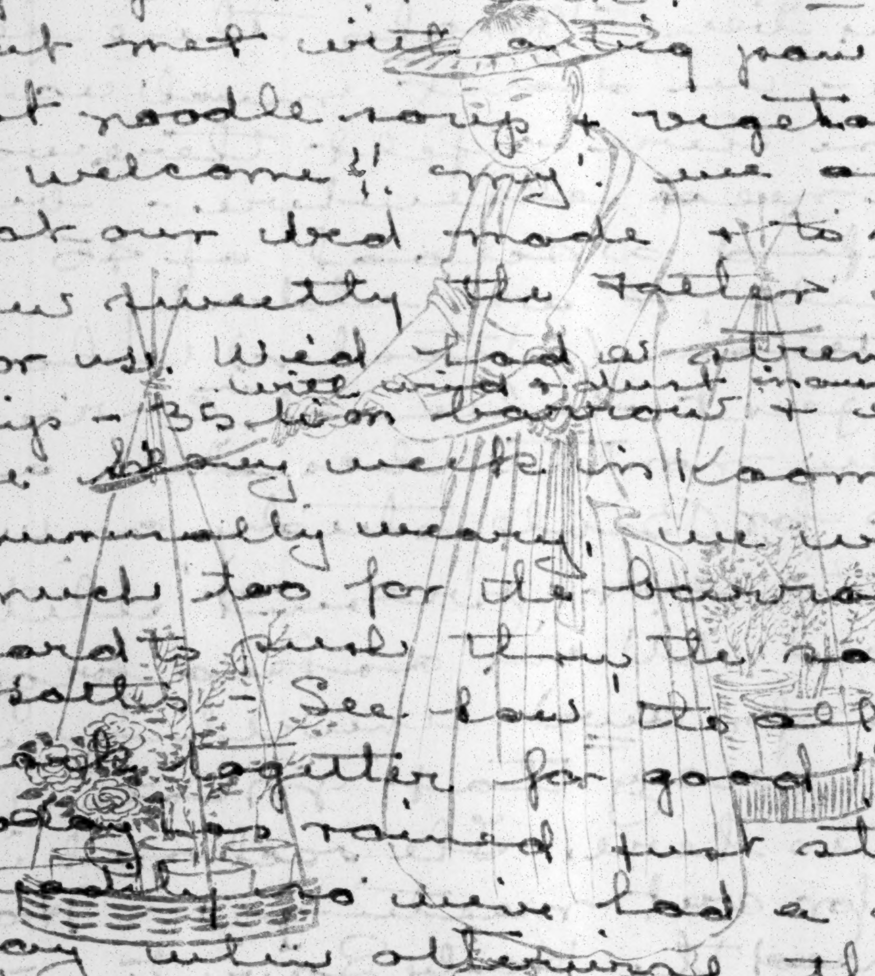
A. F. Gaylord

Treasurer.

AFG:MW

Kaomi,
Hsi Yü
April 26, 1931

Dearest Mummie mine! Letter late again — + will be more delayed because there is no post office here. I'll just write + when I have a chance I'll mail it. This is Sunday + once again we've moved + once again set up housekeeping in the room we were in once before. This time tho there is a Kang in it + it is incomparably more clean than when we got here at dark a year + more ago. This time again just at dark! + so weary but met with a big pan of hot noodle soup + vegetables. So welcome!! my! we ate + got our bed made + to sleep! How sweetly the Father cares for us. We'd had a strenuous trip — 35 li on barrows + with wind + dust many places after the heavy week in Kaomi we were unusually weary! we walked much too for the barrows were hard to push thru the sandy paths — See how 'all things' work together for good! Today has rained just steadily steadily so we've had a quiet day when otherwise there'd have been crowds! Miss Fow was more weary than I. Lei-e did manage to get up — a cold shower revived me a bit I The teacher had morning service — and after it we slept again + after lunch! I had the P.M.



meeting, so Miss Tam slept on - waking only to welcome some of the Christians after church - Now she's asleep again. I'm writing while cook fixes supper - + out side it still is raining - a blessed rain! How needed. The spring has had an unusual amount of wind, + wheat has been buried in sand - some places all gone - But this rain is just the expression of God's love + pity. How we've prayed for it - + how we bless Him that He sent it! Without it there would have been suffering!

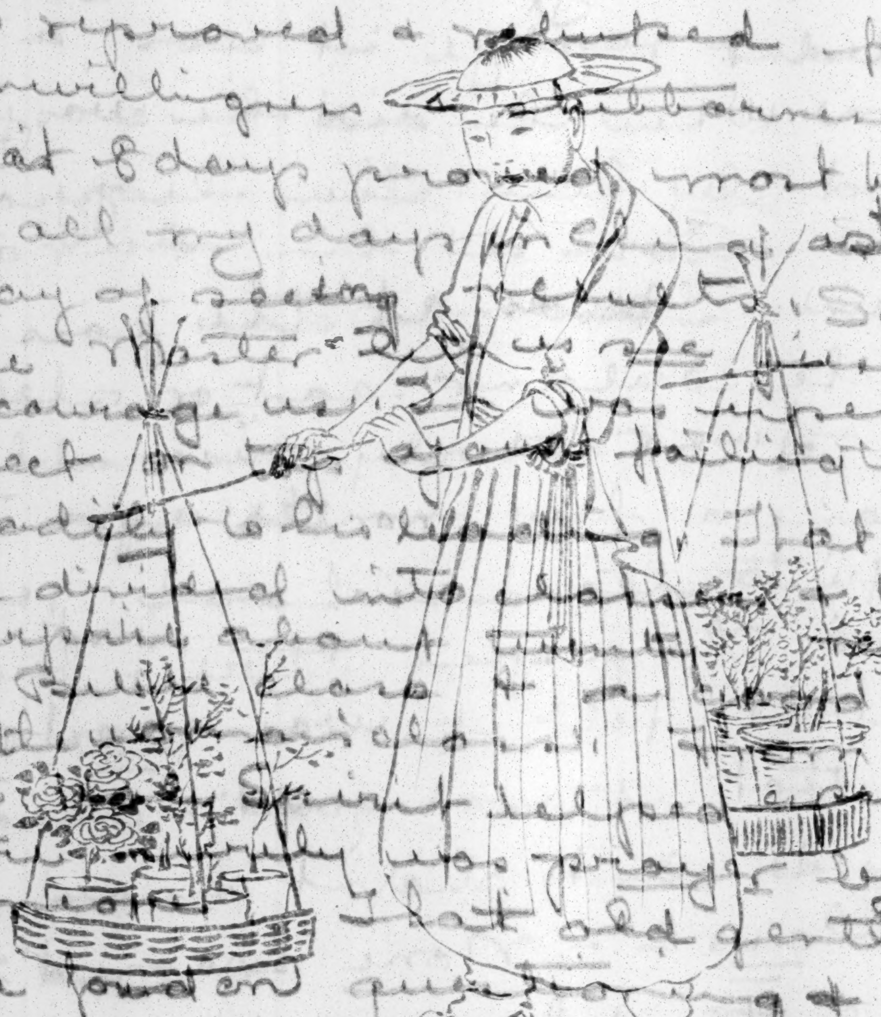
We've been Jorali's these few days - we didn't much want to come here - felt there was more need elsewhere - but we find a school of 45 pupils, + an elderly gentleman (teacher) who has just believed in Christ a few months besides a group for Bible study as well as the ever-present illiterate group. We've asked forgiveness for our unwillingness + only pray that Master will use us here. The school is out for our meetings - How we need the Holy Spirit to move hearts, to bring them to Him! This old teacher said when he read of the cross + the Master's suffering his heart was so heavy + sorrowful. He's suffered persecution

31 but his 3 days at last he's found the way of life. !

Will be there 8 days only –

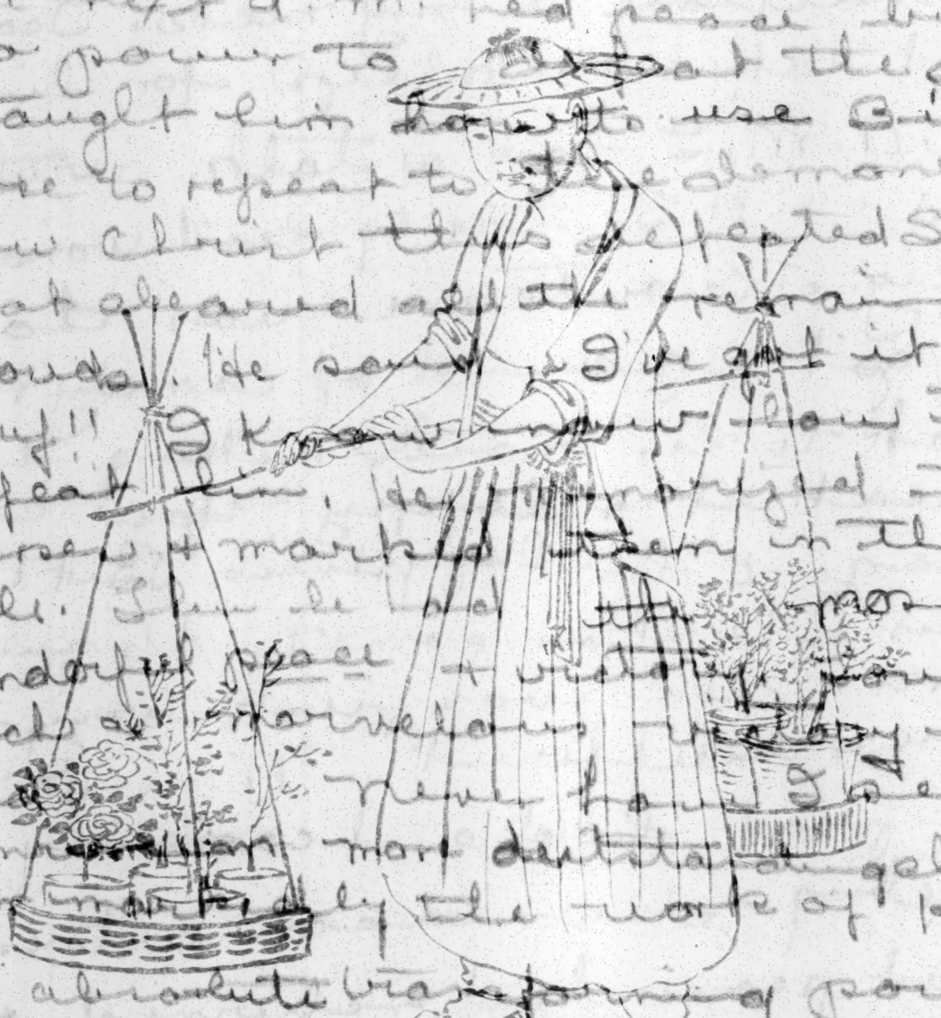
Tsingtao, May 11, 1931

See how many days have gone by since I wrote the above – there wasn't a chance to write again & so here I am without a home letter off. & all of these days news to report. – Haven't told of wedding nor Naomi nor half of that week – – I'll finish up that week at Hsi Yü. More than ever we felt so reproved & rebuked for our unwillingness & stubbornness for that 8 days proved most blessed of all my days in China as far as the way of seeing results! Sometimes the Master lets us see fruit to encourage us. It was especially sweet after our failing to respond readily to his leading. That Monday we divided into classes & to my surprise about twenty entered in Bible class & a good number in the [illegible] class [illegible] first the Holy Spirit helped especially [illegible] was prayed by someone. That old gentleman [illegible] questioning & learning his life story. An old scholar of 67. His three brothers all have degrees by examination. He as a young man went to Peking to be examined. Someone said 'he's a little shopkeeper' – & then



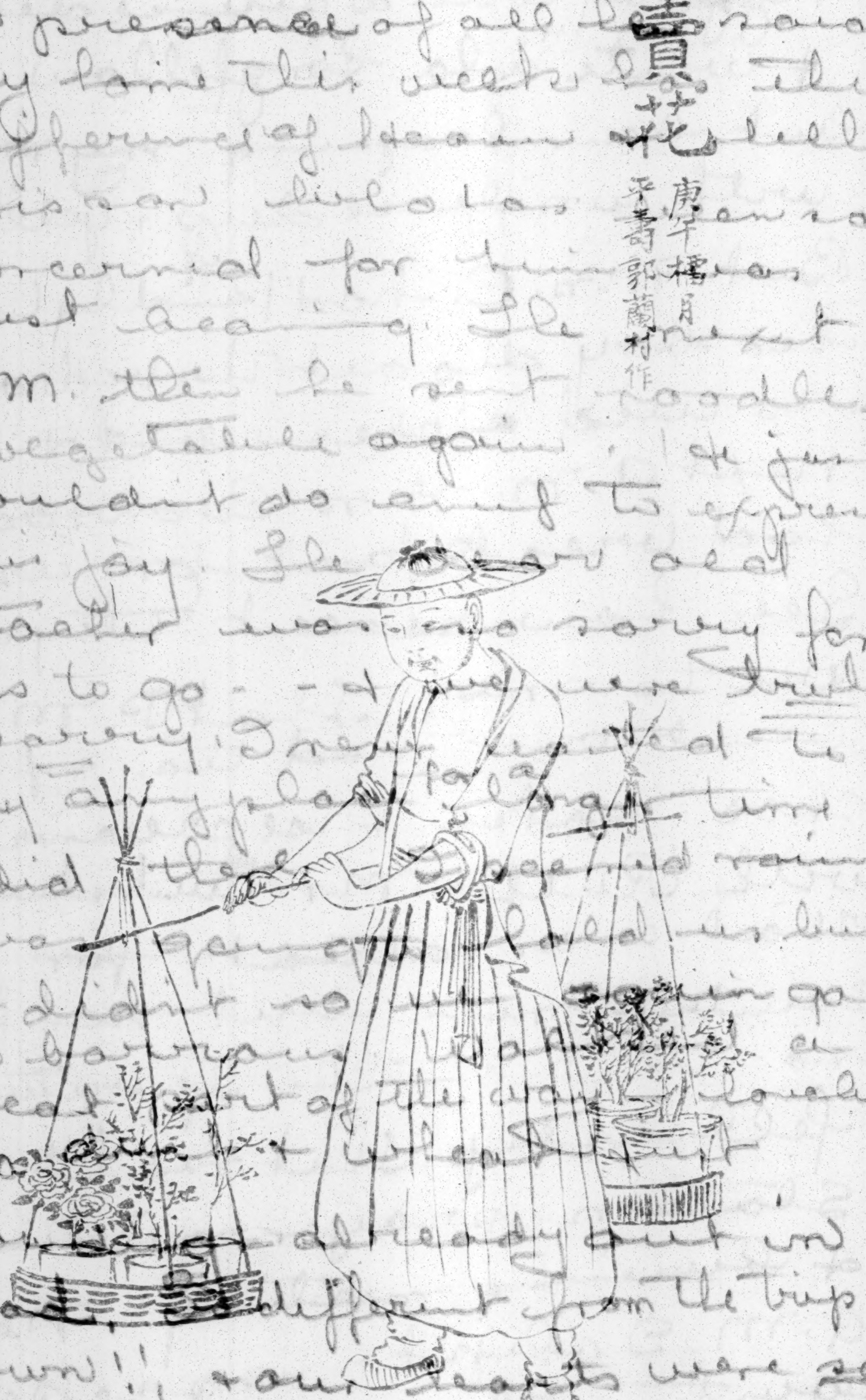
4) ~~they~~ wouldn't ~~to~~ examine his essay. He was in reality just living in a little shop. He then lost all hope & went to the bad. Then he was quite wealthy. Gradually spent his money & for 40 years has been possessed by a demon. At first he made his presence felt by making the man very uncomfortable. He taught the demon to write & conver[se] with him by written characters. Then he didn't realize it was a demon. When he did he was just bound by him. Then he opposed & even swore at him but all in vain. ~~It was at~~ the pass that he couldn't eat or sleep etc. just utterly miserable. He came a few months ago to Hsi Yü to teach school. He heard the gospel there first & from the first felt it was good. But only felt that it was good - also believed but didn't know just how. -- None seemed to be able to help. That Monday in class I asked him whether he had confessed his sins, or asked Jesus to forgive him & free him. It was then that he first knew he must! Then from the

5| text we must love our enemies + pray for enemies got him muddled. He came to me so puzzled - "Shall I pray for this demon? He is the greatest enemy I have?" told him no + how to surrender all to follow Jesus. He came + asked for a picture that had a cross on it as he felt the cross just meant Jesus' power. He assured he'd never worship it as an idol. That night he with the chaplain prayed + cried out his sin - "I'm not worthy" - - - The next a.m. had peace but no power to defeat the demon. I taught him how to use Bible verses to repeat to the demon + how Christ thus defeated Satan. That cleared all the remaining clouds. He said, "I've got it, Emuf!! I know now how to defeat him." He memorized the verses + marked them in the Bible. Then he had the most wonderful peace + victory - lovely! Such a marvelous, happy life - Never have I seen a conversion more definite + clear nor more truly the work of H.S in absolute transforming power. How he listened + took in truth just in gulps - He grew in that one week more than some church members in a life time. Such a change in his facial expression, his bodily strength - as he could



6) sleep & eat 3X ~~the~~ former amount. That was just one great joy - but at the same the deacon on whom the work of this whole section rests had left the Master very far - even to beating his mother & for 8 months not having spoken to her. Needless to say it had become a "stink" in eyes of non-Christians. The first days there he avoided us & the least excuse kept him from class. He was just a millstone on my necks. I could not eat nor sleep for him - Sun A.M. I had a talk with him - & H.S. truly led wonderfully. The outcome was that he got a pound of candy & took to his mother asking her to eat it & happy! You can imagine her happiness. But thru this she has come to know the Lord & she was just busy before & indifferent. Mon P.M. we just had a heavenly meeting - The deacon witnessed that peace had returned & vowed to lead his family in evening worship. The young teacher clearly confessed Christ & all of the families represented promised to

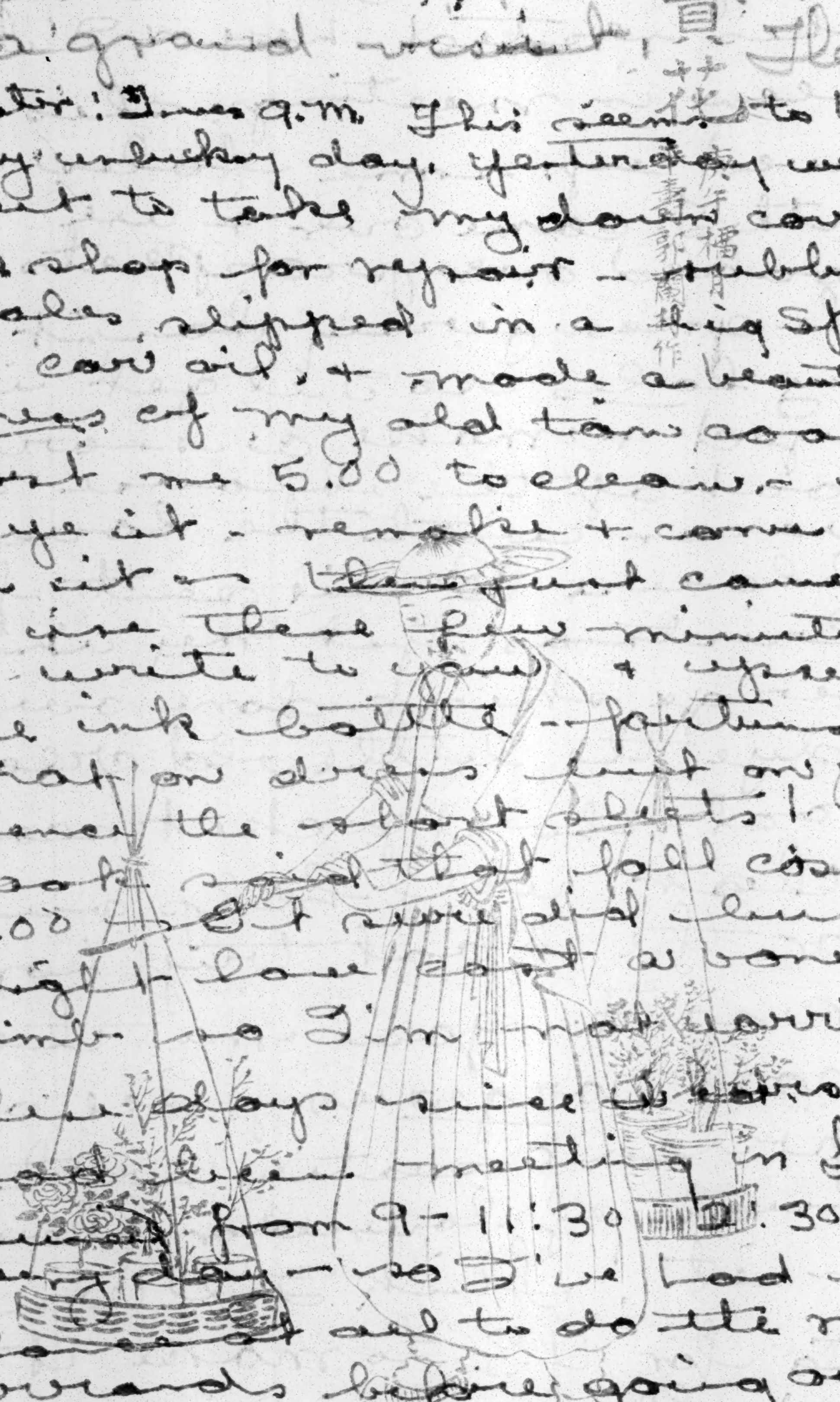
To have with family altar. The deacon was so happy that night even in rain insisted on inviting us two to tea. In presence of all he said my home this week has the difference of Heaven and Hell! It is over [illegible] he has been so concerned for him as just leaving. The next P.M. then he sent noodles & vegetables again. He just couldn't do enuf to express his joy. The dear old teacher was so sorry for us to go -- & we were truly sorry. I never expected to stay any place so long a time as I did there. Expected rain was going to hold us but it didn't so we again got on barrows. Walked a great part of the way. Lovely [illegible] & wheat but barley already out in head, so different from the trip down!! & our hearts were so happy but humbled very much!! Humbled by His matchless grace. Rested at Koomi at the church & got



8) home by 9:30 at night!
The dust, not "the snow" - had
been "heaping", not "field +
highway with a silence deep
+ white" à la Longfellow
but been heaping my room
with a silence deep + yellow
But Mrs. C. had kindly had
her boy dig out the bedroom
so we'd a clean bed +
next a.m. Mrs Coonrodt
had breakfast for us.
See how sweet they all
are to me! That P.M. I
went over. had tea of
choc. cake + ice cream
with Ruth + Mr Tewksbury.
That was a treat for
Country-me - but not half
so much as the spiritual
fellowship. That night
Station prayer-meeting
+ business meeting. Next
a.m. I slept - unpacked
country things - got woolens
out to sun + made a
trip down to see about
Bessie's belated coat. I

I just got word of this kaina for me. got a lovely one & I'm sure I'll like it 35 gold. P.M. slept & went to I's for slippers + a grand visit. Then

Later! Tues. a.m. This seems to be my unlucky day. Yesterday went out to take my down cover to the shop for repair - rubber soles, slipped in a big spot of car oil, + made a beautiful mess of my old tan coat - cost me 5.00 to clean, - will dye it - remake + come home in it - then just came back to use these few minutes to write to you + upset the ink bottle -- fortunately not on dress but on paper hence the blots! Cook said that fall cost me 5.00 + it sure did - but might have cost a bone or limb so I'm not worried.



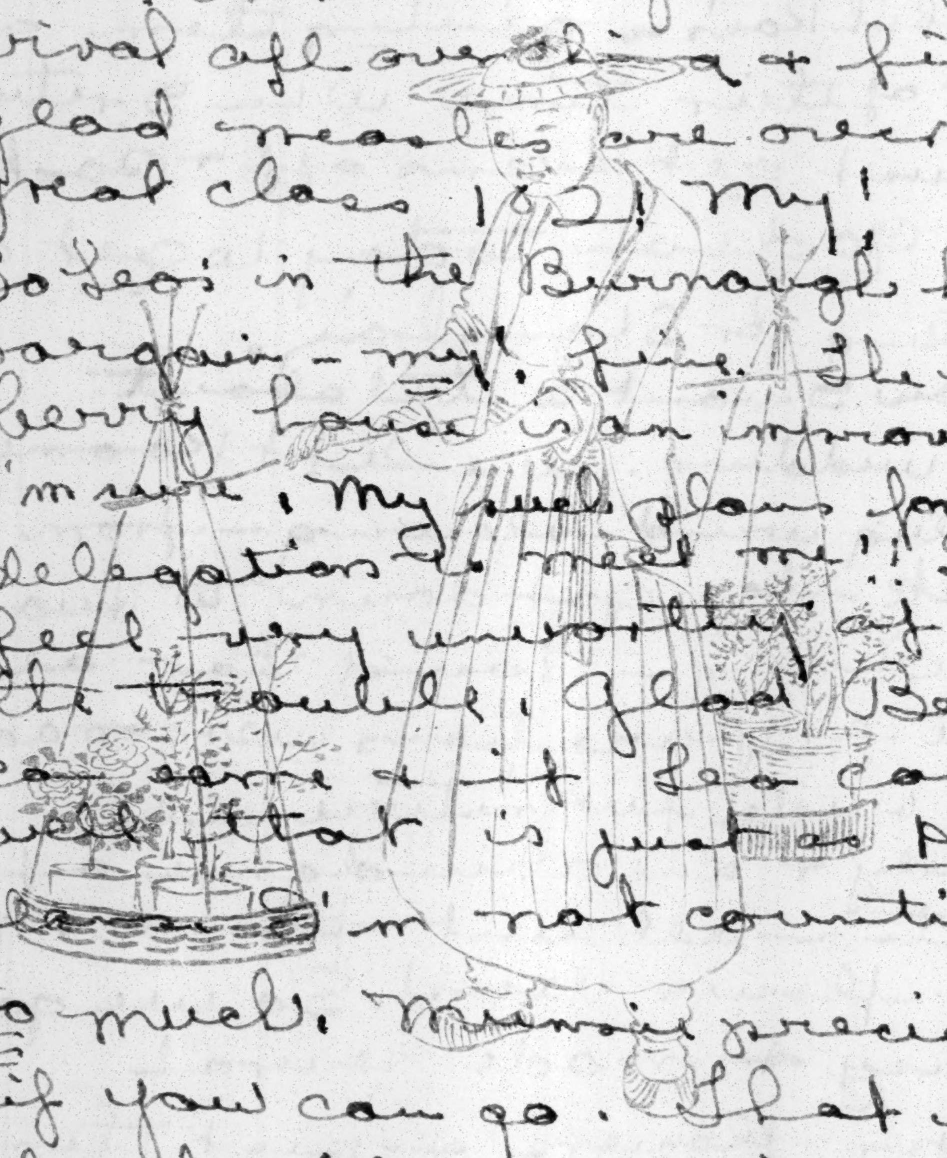
These days since Ts came we have been meeting in Local Council from 9 - 11:30 + 2.30-5.30 every day - so I've had no chance at all to do the needed errands before going out but have a few ideas for my ragged wardrobe - It's getting a painting joke. Miss Fan laughs

10) about my holes. She says
she's afraid for me to go
out on the street in some-
thing for fear of being
disgraced!! Three days as
she's rested here & I've
been in meetings she's
sewed up some holes.
Ruth T. came over & we
looked over prospects.
The green jersey hasn't
any holes so I'll get it
dyed & make a short
coat of the blouse to
wear with the lovely
blouse Bessie sent for
Christmas. Get my white
serge skirt done over
& dye the little old cream
wool short jacket next
& that will help out
for the boat trip home.
Miss F. gave me the
most gorgeous piece of
apricot satin with a
touch of lavender flower
in it! Think I'll wait
tho for U.S. to make it
up. The fashion books came
Thanks much help!!
The pencil part of letter

11) I wrote in meeting. almost time to go again.
Have a load of letters from you. I'll look over them now. Mar 27 first, Mr. E. took some to the country for me. He said without them he'd not have gone.
Glad Aunt Glennie is better + that they've gotten at the source.
Hope Mummie dear, that your eyes are much better now!!
So grateful for your good meetings my how we need such all over. There are reports of revival all over China + fine!
Glad measles are over!
Great class 1921. My!
So Leo's in the Burnaugh house bargain - my! fine. The new berry house is an improvement I'm sure. My such plans for a delegation to meet me!! I feel very unworthy of all the trouble. Glad Bennie can come + if Leo can come well that is just as He pleases. I'm not counting too much. Mummie precious if you can go. That will be doubly precious!

Back at meeting

My! but it seems near. I realize now that there isn't



13 time. for a returning letter, -
I can't realize it at all. When I come back from this trip I'll be doubly busy - when I'm in town I realize the speed of time but in country I forget how near it is in being so busy.
Tomorrow we're off for Cook's Farm again - try it again on the sea hope this time not to have to stay three days on the boat. Several calls for us to return & the longer of them has resulted in Shih Kou's giving them a bit of their time. When I return I must get exams off & pack up. Go down today to get a sailing for Shanghai.
Now I want to tell about the wedding. We left Koomi a big wind blowing - from back the. Got down to Hua Li Chung - found that all the preparations were made, the bride's furniture all ready & an abundance of gifts - all but flowers for her flower vases. So we got busy & made several paper flowers & put them on a thorn bush with leaves & it was pretty - How effectively they can use

CHEELOO UNIVERSITY

齊魯大學 TSINAN, SHANTUNG 山東濟南

CHINA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

14th July, 1931

Miss F. Irene Forsythe,
c/o Board of Foreign Missions,
156, Fifth Avenue,
New York.

Dear Miss Forsyth,

I had intended to write you a note before you left Tsingtao and though I failed to accomplish it I want to send you now this little word of congratulation on the splendid record which you have made during your first five years as a missionary in Shantung. I do not want to appear to be flattering you as I have no intention of doing any such thing, but your mother is certainly to be congratulated on the work which her daughter has done in the Tsingtao field. So far as I know you and Miss Winslett at Ichowfu have been quite in a class by yourselves for hard work and devotion and for the real progress you have made toward getting hold of the Chinese language. I hope you will have a very stimulating furlough and come back to take up your work in good condition.

Sincerely yours,

L. J. Davies

LJD/GMH